1990 and 1992 has been reduced from 88 per cent to 65 per cent, if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to step up its business ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken against the officers who are responsible for the decline in business ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The average capacity utilisation of Central Warehousing Corporation during 1990-91 was about 78 per cent and during the first eleven months of 1991-92, it was about 74 per cent. This reduction in average capacity utilisation was mainly due to the decline in receipts of bonded cargo in Warehouses, lesser food-grains storage due to lower procurement, lesser availability of Jute and Fertiliser stocks for storage etc.

(b) The Corporation has taken steps to diversity its business into newer areas. It has started providing storage facilities for Tendu Pattas in Madhya Pradesh and it has also been appointed as an agent of the Food Corporation of India for procurement of foodgrains in places where it has adequate storage facilities. The Corporation is also planning to have long term arrangements with certain Public and Private Sector Undertakings for storage of their products. Fertiliser companies and other Public Sector companies are also being approached for increased storage of their commodities in the warehouses of the Corporation.

(c) In view of replies given to parts (a) and (b), no action is contemplated against any officer.

Stitching of bags for wheat and rice

1408. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to machine stitch 100 per cent bags for packing of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what is the incentive for machine stitching of wheat bags for this year and the estimated number of bags which could be machine stitched with this incentive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) In view of the vast magnitude of price support operation, involving about 8000 purchase centres (run by FCI and State Procuring Agencies) for procurement of wheat, and 18768 rice mills (as on 1-1-1986) from whom levy rice is collected and also in view of practical difficulties, it is not possible to ensure 100% machine stitching of foodgrain bags in one go. However, attempts are being made to persuade the rice millers to deliver levy rice to FCI in double line machine stitched B-Twill gunny bags.

(c) The maximum ceiling rate to be given as an incentive for double line machine stitching of wheat bags has been raised from 70 paise per bag to 95 paise per bag with effect from 1-4-1992. It is not possible to estimate the number of bags which would be machine stitched with this incentive.

Food Corporation of India

1409. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what was the annual turnover if the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, yearwise ;

(b) what was the annual profit or loss to the Corporation zone-wise, and what are the details of the transit and store losses during the above period ;

(c) whether it is a fact that thousands of tonnes of foodgrains is stolen by the transporters in connivance with the officer during transit from the railway stations to the warehouses at Patna, Purnea and Ranchi ;

(d) what are the details of transport contractors of the Patna region working with the Corporation ; and

(e) whether Government would dispense with the service of the old transport contractors to stop the pilferage during transit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The annual turnover of the Food Corporation of India for three years from 1988-89 to 1990-91 is as under :—

Year	(Lakh Tonnes) Quantity	(Rs. in crores) Value
1988-89 . .	363.52	9,688.82
1989-90 . .	378.27	11,238.99
1990-91 . .	418.00	13,699.56

(b) The Food Corporation of India maintains the profit and loss account at All-India level and not zone-wise. The figures regarding annual profit and loss and transit and storage losses during the aforesaid 3 years are as under :—

Year	Loss (Rs./Crs.)	Quantity (Lakh/MT) Storage/ Transit	Value (Rs./Crs.) Storages
1988-89 .	7.53	4.23	113.90
1989-90 .	11.10	3.00	87.89
1990-91 .	7.95	4.60	155.98

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There are 18 transport contractors working in Bihar region of the Food Corporation of India at present.

(e) The transport contractors are appointed for a maximum period of 2 years. A contractor ceases to work after the expiry of the contract period.

Ban on wheat movement

1410. KUMARI ALIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have imposed a ban on wheat movement by rail ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any punishment has been fixed for violators of these norms ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा खाद्यान्नों की खरीद

1411. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा खाद्यान्न उत्पादकों से कम कीमतों पर खाद्यान्न खरीदा जा रहा है और उसी खाद्यान्न को उपभोक्ताओं को ऊंचे मूल्य पर बेचा जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत 3 वर्षों के दौरान अलग-अलग वर्ष में देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में गेहूं और चावल का खरीद मूल्य क्या रहा है तथा उसे उपभोक्ताओं को अधिकतम और न्यूनतम अलग-अलग रूप से किस मूल्य पर बेचा गया है ; और

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान इन खाद्यान्नों पर भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा प्रति क्विंटल प्रचालन लागत के रूप में कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरुण गोगोई) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) दो विवरण संलग्न हैं जिनमें पिछले तीन वर्षों के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों, जिन पर किसानों से गेहूं और धान वसूल किए गए और लेवी चावल के वसूली मूल्य और गेहूं तथा चावल